

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with **Louis Woo on 3/25/08**. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 18 and 21-33 are cancelled.

In claim 11, line 2 the terms "sealing edge providing" is replaced with --sealing edge adapted to provide--.

In claims 13-15, line 1 the terms "according to Claim 1" is replaced with --according to Claim 1--.

In claim 16, line 3, the terms "sealing edge providing" is replaced with --sealing edge adapted to provide--; and in line 10 --wherein two of said arms extend towards opposite edges of the mask and are terminated by lateral bars extending substantially parallel to an edge of the mask." is entered after the recitations of "reinforcement member."

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 11-17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

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4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: as to claims 11 and 16, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the overall claimed combination of a face mask with two of its arms extending toward opposite edges of the mask and are terminated by lateral bars extending substantially parallel to an edge of the mask. Therefore, the invention defined in claims 11 and 16 is novel.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHUMAYA B. ALI whose telephone number is (571)272-6088. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W-F 9 am - 5 pm.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on 571-272-4835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shumaya B. Ali /
Examiner, Art Unit 3771

/Justine R Yu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3771